



December 6, 2024

Meeting Minutes

www.usi.edu/faculty-senate

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Nicholas Rhew, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.
- II. ROLL CALL – Susan Ely, Secretary
 - a. *Faculty Senators Present: Amie McKibban (At-Large), Peter Whiting (At-Large), Nicholas Rhew (Romain College of Business), Todd Schroer (College of Liberal Arts), McManus Woodend (College of Liberal Arts), Brett Anderson (College of Liberal Arts), Jessica Mason (College of Nursing and Health Professions), Jenna Thacker (College of Nursing and Health Professions), Zachary Ward (College of Nursing and Health Professions), Susan Ely (Pott College of Science, Engineering and Education), Kyle Mara (Pott College of Science, Engineering and Education), and Kate Sherrill (Library)*
 - b. *Alternates: Prasenjit Ghosh (for Jiaying Liu, Romain College of Business), and Tom Noland (for Nancy Kovanic, Romain College of Business)*
 - c. *Faculty Senators Absent without Alternate: Guoyuan Huang (Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education)*
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 15, 2024 were approved as distributed through unanimous consent.
- IV. PRESIDENT, PROVOST, AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
 - a. Interim President Bridges congratulated Provost Blunt on their formal appointment as Provost for USI. With the departure of Troy Miller, Rashad Smith will be in the position of Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Admissions, and he will be part of an enrollment task force that includes other key stakeholders, including undergraduate and graduate studies. Academic Affairs will be working closely with Admissions on future recruiting activities. The Vice President of Student Affairs search will begin in the later part of January. The holiday reception at the University Home is being reinstated, and retirees will be invited. Late Night Breakfast went well. Many volunteered and there were many students present. Interim President Bridges continues to meet with local leaders in the greater Evansville community. USI will be receiving our updated credit rating at by the end of the year. The employee luncheon is next week, recognizing 161 employees for their years of services in addition to retirees. Interim President Bridges will be meeting with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and the Indiana Commission on Higher Education on December 16th and 17th for a meeting of all the Indiana college presidents. Mr. Bridges thanked everyone for their hard work this semester.



- b. Provost Blunt thanked people for volunteering for Late Night Breakfast. Approximately 378 students attended the event. The Commencement platform party will now include the Faculty Senate Chair. The new Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer for the Indiana Commission of Higher Education is Dr. Matt Butler – Provost Blunt will meet with him next week. The new Indiana high school diploma should be approved before the end of the year. High school students will now need to decide which pathway they want to pursue for the specific degree selecting from employment (workforce bound), enlistment (service bound) and enrollment (college bound). The high school dual credit offerings will need to be in the Core Transfer Library, which may impact some dual credit courses not currently in the Core Transfer Library. The accreditation visit for HLC for high schools offering the Indiana College Core through USI (Heritage Hills and Reitz Memorial) will take place next week on campus and at the high schools themselves. New webpages for academic programs will go live before the Spring semester. Provost Blunt wants to remind all faculty to encourage seniors to complete their Next Destination survey. Faculty Annual Reports will be completed in January using Watermark. The instructor promotion pathway is now in the handbook and the process will be emailed to those who are eligible for expedited promotion. Provost Blunt thanked us all for our service the past semester. Indiana Commission for Higher Education has a student representative and a faculty representative. Faculty nominees will be given to the Governor. USI needs a nominee for a faculty to serve on the faculty nominating committee for the faculty representative by Feb 7.
- c. Mrs. Sarah Will, Executive Director of Human Resources – Web time entry will be required for submitting electronic timecards for salaried individuals in 2025. Support staff will begin submitted timecards this way early in 2025, 12-month faculty will adopt the software in April and then 9- and 10-month faculty will begin in August 2025. All monthly paid employees will be moved to biweekly pay cycles with the move to web time entry. Faculty can still defer pay over 12 months if they want to. Medical, childcare and other benefit deductions will be split evenly between the two payments. A communication will be made campus wide in the spring. A general announcement will be made at the Spring meeting.
- d. At 3:48pm, the fire alarm went off and the senate relocated to outside the Business and Engineering Center. Once safely outside the building, the meeting continued.
- e. Dr. Jason Hardgrave, Assistant Provost – Dr. Hardgrave acknowledged that Watermark has been down. Watermark will be fixed and there will be no loss of data. Dr. Hardgrave also announced that a beekeeping meeting will take place at USI next week.

V. FACULTY SENATE CHAIR REPORT



- a. The Faculty Senate Chair offered congratulations to Dr. Shelly Blunt on their official appointment to provost. The chair thanked the Provost for their support of the Faculty Senate.
 - b. The chair noted that with the recent reorganization, the senate will need to work closely with admissions to better support ongoing recruiting efforts.
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS – The Bookstore Advisory Board met. The bookstore is discussing processes for Archie’s Book Bundle for graduate studies, but no decision has been made.
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
- IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GOOD OF THE ORDER
 - a. Grades will be due a week from Tuesday (12/17/24) at 10:00am.
 - b. Commencement is Saturday December 14th. All faculty were encouraged to attend. If you RSVP’d to attend commencement and cannot attend, or are planning to attend but did not RSVP, contact the Provost’s office to ensure the proper number of faculty seats are available.
- X. ADJOURNMENT at 4:01pm.